

**Testimony Before The
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE**

H.B. No. 6830 AAC The Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30, 2013

March 4, 2011

At one time I had a fabulous job and owned my home outright. Things happen unexpectedly sometimes and life changes.

I became ill with diabetes, severe neuropathy, fibromyalgia, asthma, and congestive heart failure- Doctors keep adding to the list. I lost everything. Walking is a problem, I ended up in an apartment on the second floor with a high rent I couldn't afford I was severely depressed.

The worst was DCF took my daughter due to unsafe living conditions.

I was referred to Supportive Housing for Families. Our first goal was safe, decent housing in a first floor apartment. I was now able to get in and out.

I collect SSD, which doesn't go far. Supportive Housing for Families helps pay my rent. For the first time in years I didn't have to worry or decide between food, electric, or my prescriptions.

I was sleeping in a chair so my daughter could have our only bed. Supportive Housing for Families got her a bedroom set and the furniture we needed.

My depression got better, my self-esteem improved. I have a relative who drives me to Doctor's appointments, shopping, etc. My quality of life improved due to this program.

I have been able to go place like church, I started a savings account.

My daughter said she feels safe, secure, and warm!

Not to be dramatic but this program literally saved my life. I know I can count on Robin to help if I have any needs.

I can't say enough good things about this program. I know there are others that are in need as well. There needs to be more funding or programs of this type.

Respectfully,

Joy Perales